



ECONOMIC INDICATORS



6.1 ↓

▶ **Q4 2018 Gross Domestic Product**



5.1 ↓

▶ **December 2018 Inflation Rate**



-22.5 ↓

▶ **Q4 2018 Consumer Confidence**



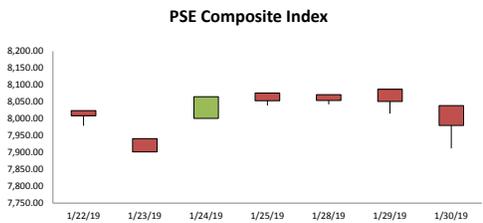
5.2 ↓

▶ **Q4 2018 Auto-buying Intention**

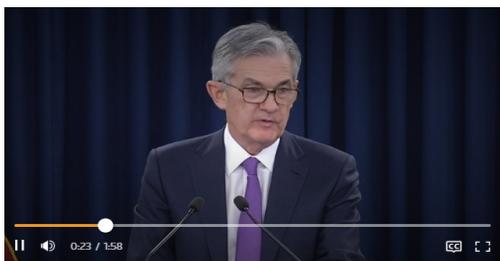
52.35 ↑



▶ **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



The Fed hits pause on rate hikes
The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady on Wednesday and said it would be “patient” before lifting borrowing costs this year.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Gov’t could have topped 2018 deficit cap

The government could have topped its fiscal deficit ceiling in 2018, the state budget chief said on Wednesday as economic managers move to have big-ticket public works spared from an election ban in a bid to sustain spending momentum.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



2019 budget in last-minute trouble at bicameral talks

Wednesday validated expectations of “bloody” bicameral conference committee talks on the proposed P3.757-trillion national budget for this year, with no less than the Senate president threatening to withdraw the version of his chamber from the table before lawmakers concerned met again on the spending plan that day.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



FINANCIAL TRENDS

Peso strengthens further

The peso strengthened further against the dollar on Wednesday as investors continued to price in expectations of a dovish US Federal Reserve as its latest policy review concludes.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INDUSTRY NEWS

Why Isuzu let go of D-Max’s local assembly

Since 2013, the Isuzu D-Max has been the only pickup in the Philippines assembled locally. By July 2019, Isuzu Philippines Corp.’s assembly plant in Biñan, Laguna, would have put, all in all, up to 50,000 D-Max pickups. Unfortunately, by that time, assembly operations will have ceased for this tough, reliable workhorse.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INTERNATIONAL

Renault-Nissan group sold most cars last year, but VW’s No.1 including trucks

Volkswagen Group has held on to its position as the world’s top-selling automaker for the fifth year in a row, although the German group was edged out again by the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance in the light-duty vehicle segment.

